

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2006

Contact: Angela Traiforos Phone: 817-569-9008 Ext 22

Bea Edwards Phone: 202-841-1391

## **Fort Worth's Community Learning Center's AITP Program to be Featured as National Model at Manufacturing Jobs Training Forum.**

**Fort Worth, Texas-** This week, the U.S. Department Of Labor and the AFL-CIO Working For America Institute will host a forum in Irving, Texas, to address the challenges facing the U.S. manufacturing sector and highlight 11 job training programs from around the country that have been successful union and management training partnerships. The Community Learning Center's Aerospace Industry Training Partnership (AITP), which provides training for dislocated workers, job seekers and incumbent workers, will be featured as the primary training program model.

**CLC Executive Director Quote: "We are honored to be recognized as a model for training programs across the country..."**

Since 2000, AITP has trained more than 1,300 people and placed 90 percent of them in aerospace, advanced-manufacturing and other industries in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. AITP is a multi-employer, multi-union initiative in aerospace and related industries. It has developed an industry-led, demand-driven workforce training model, in which Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter TEXTRON, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW), United Aerospace Workers (UAW) and other aerospace industries are full partners. A Consortium that includes area Workforce Investment Boards, the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Tarrant County College and others serve as the programs governing body. The Consortium focuses on maintaining the competitiveness of industry in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, while increasing the overall stability of the region's economy.

The forum, being held at the Sheraton Grand in Irving, will demonstrate the dynamics of joint training programs that integrate unions, management and the public workforce system in sectors designated as 'key industries' by the High Growth Job Training Initiative of the President. AITP programs allow workers who need skills, training, or upgrading to earn industry-recognized credentials that qualify them for high growth/high demand manufacturing jobs.

Forum participants, including representatives of labor, business and public workforce development organizations, will address the challenges of recruitment, training, and competitiveness in unionized manufacturing. Delegations from unions and industries will explore the possibility of replicating successful training programs like AITP in their own plants and communities.